



OBX STORM NEWS

FALL 2014



Hello all Storm parents, players, coaches, members and soccer fans. The fall soccer season is in full swing in Dare County North Eastern North Carolina and it is going amazingly well. Soccer is clearly the most popular sport on the beach by numbers alone and the level of play is rising to newer and higher levels. I can tell you its awesome to be a part of and to watch and I'm excited to ride along and see where we get to. We wanted to send out a quick state of the club message to all our members as well as thank some folks for the great volunteered efforts.

First of all the club is very healthy and doing quite well this fall season and 2014-2015 year. We have 11 teams with us 2 girls and 9 boys teams from U9 to U18 and are getting ready to enlist a new Storm team from Hatteras coached by their middle school coach Jerry. Just this fall we started not one but two new U9 boys teams both coached by Elliott Jones and are hoping to start a new younger girls team in the near future. We have a very cohesive and productive board whom all 9 are doing a great job keeping us strong and moving forward. They are President -Tom Bouker ,Vice President - Larry Barker ,Treasurer - Lisa Murphy, Secretary - Richard Greenlee, Director of Coaching - Steve Smalley, Marketing Director - Hardy Peters, Fundraising Director - Megan Cipriano , Recreation/Challenge Director - Barrett Crook, Discipline and Appeals Officer - James Taylor and our Registrar - Suzie Neiderlander. Through these great volunteers we are positive that the club is in great standings with NCYSA and our kids will have the best resources available to grow and develop their games and lives .

Here are some things as a club we are very proud of and want to share with you:

- Steve Smalley is back with our club as OBX Storm Soccer's Director of Coaching and we couldn't be happier. After all first and foremost we are a soccer club and no one on this beach knows soccer and how to coach it better then Steve. He played at UVA in college and helps run their summer camps still today, coached and is still coaching on the beach with Storm and others for years, runs Coastal Soccer Clinic which offers unbelievably affordable high level camps for kids, runs private sessions and has basically been the footprint for soccer in our area for years. He is in the process of taking our technical, tactical and overall level of play to an even higher mark and makes our club legitimate on so many soccer levels. He is always available to talk with and help any of our members and we encourage you, your child, and your team to get to know him well.
- Our Fundraising Director , Megan Cipriano, has kicked of 2 very successful fundraisers this year and we are making some very necessary funds. In the Spring she had a very successful yard sale/bake sale at the OBX Bank in Kitty hawk and just recently a real life foosball event with a silent auction, food sales, raffles and merchandise to raise money. She, with the help of many volunteers raised over 2000.00 from the event and more than 1000.00 on our new merchandise. Thanks for all the hard work Megan not only for raising some much needed funds but also for putting us closer to the community while always projecting a great positive attitude.



- We have many volunteers who are not board members or coaches doing an awesome job helping us with events, day to day operations, fields and caring for our family. Here are a few we must mention:

Ross Cipriano and Cliff Hoggard have done a tremendous amount of work on the KDH Firehouse fields from upgrading the lighting system, getting the fields in incredible shape and getting us more access to them .They also built, transported, and put together the real life size Foosball game for our latest fundraiser



Michael York designed our new merchandise logo for our 2014/2015 fundraising efforts and so far it is being received very well . We have sold many hoodies and t-shirts in a short time and if you are interested contact your coach.

Jeff Scott is helping us with the transition to a new website and has offered again to help maintain it when its up and running. Elliott Jones & his company have been hired to create our new Storm Website and to facilitate it yearly. Look for it to be up and running soon.

We cannot thank these people enough as without help from our members it would be impossible to get everything done. It takes all of us working together to get better so thanks for taking ownership in your club.

While on the topic of thanking people Storm owes a big one to Tony Vardaro. Tony, our U15 Boys Coach who also coaches with the NCYSA Olympic Development younger squad ,hosted our first ever College ID Camp for rising seniors and juniors right here at the Nags Head fields in the early summer. The head coach of Barton College, Matt Aikens, and the head coach of Va Wesleyan, Chris Mills came to Nags Head in June to run an ID camp for our older high school kids to get looked at and possibly get a chance to play at the higher level. The coaches gave each player an evaluation what that player needs to work on to get there. Storm also raised over 900.00 through this event and we can't thank Tony enough for his efforts.

OBX Storm Soccer, with the help of Tony Vardaro and Steve Smalley in conjunction with NCYSA and Bill Furjanic, will host, if enough players in our area sign up the first ever ODP tryouts and training sessions right here in Nags Head for the 2002 and 2003 group. Instead of having to drive to Raleigh Greensboro, or wherever they will be held here. On top of it, if it happens NCYSA will donate money to Parks and Rec for the use of the facility which hopefully they will use for maintaining the "once" pristine fields.



Here are some Storm accolades that we are very proud of and that are making us more and more legitimate in the soccer community:

1. Beach FC Columbus day Tournament - Known for being one of the toughest on the East Coast attracting teams from multiple states our club sent 7 teams and 5 came home with the championship. I read an article in a No, Va. Soccer newsletter that stated the same and behind the host club we were the 2nd ranked club with victories. Not bad for a small club on the beach.
2. We have the lowest fees among any club I have met yet and get better results in a lot of situations.
3. FFHS is having another outstanding season (a big congrats to Juan and Jay) and getting ready for another run in the state playoffs and FFMS is once again dominating the season getting ready for the post season. All coaches with both teams are or were actively involved with Storm and we know 90% plus are in the program. It shows that a traveling club and a school program working together can accomplish anything. Great job to all. Go Nighthawks!
4. OBX Storm Soccer had over 20 players, boys and girls, make the Olympic Development team for our state and at least 3 made the regional team at the end of the season. Great job coaches as we look for even more to compete and make this years squad.

At this time I'd also like to welcome our newest coaches and their gang to the club. As you may or may not know Steve Smalley brought us Elliott Jones who is coaching not one but two U9 boys teams. His Ocean team won their first tournament on Columbus Day in Va Beach while his Midnight team played awesome as well, with his hands full he is doing a great job. Steve also has since the resignation from Jay

Hawes, brought in Kevin Groat and his wife Erin with the help of Todd Feltz to coach the U15 girls in his absence. Jay, who devoted tons of time and effort to Storm for years cannot be thanked enough and will be sorely missed. Kevin is already off to a great start with a win as well in Va Beach on Columbus Day so keep up the good work guys and thanks!

Something of note all of you could help us with all the time. One of our biggest goals in previous years and again this year is getting more access to our local fields and to convince the county and towns that we need a facility to train, play, and host tournaments . We as a club recently offered Dare County Parks & Recreation financial aid for the maintenance of the NH Fields in exchange for use this winter and we were once again refused. They will lock the gates again from November until February instead of planting rye. They will inevitably shut them down again in the summer claiming the fields need rest when that is actually the time of year when Bermuda grass, properly maintained, should be thriving and very much playable upon. They pad lock the fields up, pull the fuse to the lights, and close/lock a gate to the parking area all to keep the community safe from kids exercising. This news ought to upset you in the very least as a tax paying citizen and we hope you will contact your local officials and let them know your displeasure. We would simply like to have all sports groups in this community have open access to our existing fields. We all know the numerous benefits of kids playing sports and their involvement in activities from avoiding obesity and avoiding drugs and alcohol, to learning teamwork and commitment to growing confidence and character. Why a county or group could justify closing fields down to kids in any day or age is beyond me. We also would like the area to realize with us the benefits to the local community if we had the facilities and cooperation to host tournaments in our area. Barrett Crook and his company have put a plan together and offered some significant start up funds but we need the grassroots effort to get this kind of project rolling. Please contact us if you can help and writing to our local officials would help the cause. We have over 140 players and that adds up to a lot of taxpayers, business owners and locals with connections. Help us help the kids.

In closing I would like to mention the coaches, board members and volunteers again and elaborate if I may. This club is solely a non profit organization run by all volunteers who simply have the goal in mind to do the best we can to make higher level soccer available to our kids in this and surrounding communities. How successful we are depends on everyone in the club and the vested interest we take in it. The board works hard to keep things in line so this club and its members are legitimate with the state and other ruling parties so the kids keep playing. The coaches work hard to run a team for 10 months a year and are vested in the success of these kids as players and people (if you add up the hours alone its crazy just ask our spouses). Our Registrar Suzie Neiderlander puts in numerous hours and effort to keep us available to play. Steve Smalley works many hours and puts in tremendous effort. It Is truly amazing and we are lucky to have them all. (they say around the soccer club water fountain that the 3 most important people to any club are the DOC, the Registrar, and the Treasurer and we have 3 of the best). But we need all of you to take ownership in your club as well. OBX Storm Soccer is only going to be as good as its members and we need help. We not only need coaches and players but we need help running events, help with committees to work with the local governments, new ideas, etc. If you are interested please contact us. Yes we have things to improve on, help us by being part of the solution. It could be as simple as being a more supportive and positive person on the sidelines or contacting us and pitching in. Either way your and all our kids playing deserve the best and will only be as successful as the club and the environment we create for them. Please contact me with any questions or concerns and thank you for supporting and being part of our great club.

Tom Bouker

tbouker@live.com

252-599-1147

